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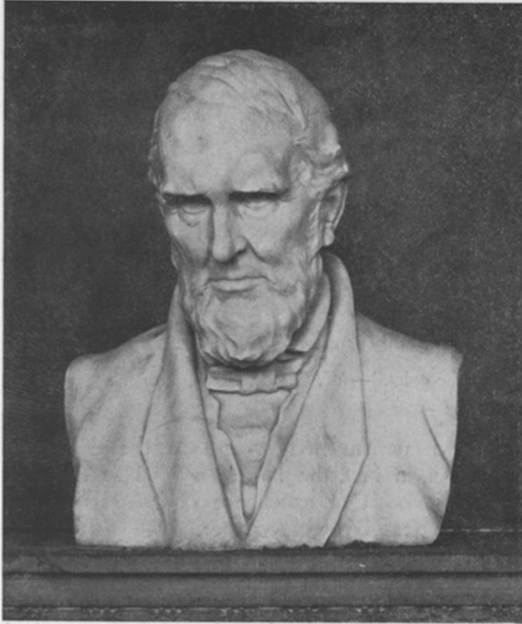
Museum of Fine Arts Bulletin

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Bust of J. G. Whittier

W. O. Partridge

Public Library

Registry of Local Art

List of City Busts and Bas-Reliefs

LISTS of city monuments and city pictures prepared for the Art Department by the Registry of the Museum have formed part of the reports of the Department for the years ending January 31, 1911 and 1912. In the report for the current year, soon to be issued, this inventory has been continued by a list of busts and bas-reliefs. It has been sought to record the subject, material, size, source, and date of each object listed, together with the name of the artist and dates of birth and death.

The oldest portrait bust is that of John Adams in Faneuil Hall—a very characteristic work by the French sculptor, Binon, 1818. It is said that a copy of this bust in chalk, made by Horatio Greenough when a boy, first called attention to his powers and gave him the impulse to his career. The Courthouse contains several busts of chief justices, and the Public Library a number representing noted citizens and men of letters. At the Public Library are preserved also two ideal

busts representing Christ and Lucifer, by Horatio Greenough, the pedestals carved with poetic symbolism in the spirit of the early nineteenth century in Italy.

The bas-reliefs include the St. Gaudens relief over the doorway of the Public Library, flanked by the seals of City and State, the bronze doors by Daniel C. French, with graceful figures in low relief, and the circular relief in the Courtyard in memory of R. C. Billings, also by St. Gaudens. In the Central Hall of the Courthouse sixteen life-size Caryatid figures, representing Law, Justice, and similar subjects, support the lateral galleries. They are strongly modeled, but difficult to see under the overhanging consoles. In the Mayor's office are hung a series of bronze medallions, at present numbering fifteen, by R. C. Brooks, with profile heads of mayors of Boston. The City Hospital contains a large marble tablet to the memory of Dr. J. C. Dalton. Several other tablets elsewhere commemorate soldiers in our wars.

In the course of preparing this list the Registry has made an inventory of plaster reproductions of sculpture preserved in city buildings. These are mostly in the schools, of whose plastic ornamentation the list forms an interesting census. One hundred and one schools are so decorated out of a total number of more than three hundred in Boston. The sources are many: graduating classes, school societies, local clubs, individuals,—sometimes in memory of others, sometimes by legacy,—teachers, parents, proceeds of entertainments and lectures, money earned by pupils, and contributions from leagues and other organizations. Such an inventory testifies in a striking way to the place held by the schools in popular esteem. As in the case of all permanent installation of fine art, often placed in position to be unheeded thereafter, the question of the use by the pupils of this material is as important as that of its provision. It has taken the efforts of many to bring these objects together, and may require still further effort before they are enjoyed as they might be.

A supplement to the list records several works in marble and bronze not included in the inventory of city monuments issued in 1911, the chief being the figures of Science and Art, by Mr. Bela L. Pratt, since placed in position on the Public Library steps, and the newly erected statue of Dr. Edward Everett Hale by the same sculptor.
G.